

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1, 12, 13 and 41 have been amended. Claims 10, 11 and 19 have been canceled. Claims 1-9, 12-18 and 41 are in the application upon entry of this amendment. Entry of this amendment, and re-examination and reconsideration of the present application are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 1 has been amended by merging it with claim 11. The Examiner has indicated that claim 11 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant respectfully submits that since claim 11 has been merged into claim 1 and there were no intervening claims, claim 1 as amended herein should be considered to be allowable.

Claim 1, 2, 4, 8 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Vorrier et al. (U.S. Patent 4,133,926) and Caines (U.S. Patent 4,557,963). Claims 3 and 5-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Vorrier et al. and Caines. These rejections are believed to have been obviated by the above-indicated amendment to claim 1.

The Examiner indicated that claims 14-18 were drawn to a non-elected species and were withdrawn since claim 1 was no longer considered to be allowable. In view of the above-indicated amendment to claim 1, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider his decision to withdraw claims 14-18. Applicant respectfully requests that claims 14-18 be considered and allowed with the present application.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a). These objections are believed to be moot in view of the above-indicated cancellation of claim 10 and amendment to claim 41. Withdrawal of the objections to the drawings is believed to be warranted and is respectfully requested.

Claims 13, 19 and 41 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for the reasons indicated on page 3 of the Office Action. These rejections are believed to be obviated by the above-indicated amendments to claims 13 and 41, and the cancellation of claim 19. Withdrawal of these rejections is believed to be warranted and is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By _____


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